Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 by rewriting same to read as follows, and cancel claims 4, 7, and 11-13, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Five Times Amended) An audio data signal processing method, in which a supplied audio data signal can be in one of a compressed data state and an uncompressed data state, for performing a process for decoding the supplied audio data signal, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether zero data continues for a predetermined period of time in said supplied audio data signal;

determining, when zero data are detected to continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied audio data are in the compressed data state and determining, when zero data is not detected to continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied audio data are in the uncompressed state; and

performing a first decoding operation on said supplied audio data when said supplied audio data are determined to be in the compressed data state in said step of determining and

performing a second decoding operation when said supplied audio data are determined to be in the uncompressed data state and said supplied data are determined to be in the uncompressed data state in said step of determining,

wherein upon detection that zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding is performed by switching said supplied audio data signed to said first decoding operation based on a sync signal of said supplied audio data signal, and

wherein said supplied audio data are stored for said predetermined period during which it is detected whether said zero data continue, and when it is determined that said supplied data are non-compressed audio data, the result of decoding said supplied audio data is output following the result of decoding said stored audio data.--